

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20 and 39-54 such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. – 20. (Canceled).

21.(Original) A floor coating method comprising applying to a flooring substrate a mixture comprising a film former and sufficient lightness-inducing pigment to provide a translucent jobsite-renewable finish having an increased lightness value.

22.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the pigment has a submicron average particle diameter and will diffusely reflect light.

23.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the pigment is designated a “pigment white” in the Society of Dyers and Colourists *Colour Index*.

24.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the pigment comprises zinc oxide, lithopone, titanium dioxide, zinc sulfide, antimony oxide, zirconium oxide, barium sulfate, coprecipitated $3\text{BaSO}_4/\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$, bismuth oxychloride or mixture thereof.

25.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the pigment comprises titanium dioxide in its rutile form.

26.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the pigment comprises ultrafine zinc oxide.

27.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the film former is water-soluble or water-dispersible.

28.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the film former comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible acid-containing polymer crosslinked using a transition metal, alkaline earth metal, alkali metal or mixture thereof.

29.(Original) A method according to claim 28 wherein the transition metal comprises zinc and the polymer is acrylic.

30.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the film former comprises a radiation-curable polyurethane, polyurethane dispersion, multipart polyurethane or latent one part polyurethane composition containing a blocked isocyanate.

31.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the mixture when coated at a 50 m²/liter coating rate atop patterned vinyl composition floor tiles and evaluated using the L*a*b color space has a lightness value L greater than that obtained in the absence of the pigment and less than about 60.

32.(Original) A method according to claim 31 wherein the coated mixture when hardened will impart to the floor tiles a cleaner appearance but will permit the pattern to be clearly discerned under normal daytime illumination by an observer standing on the floor tiles.

33.(Original) A method according to claim 31 wherein the ratio calculated by dividing the lightness value L by the Hiding Power is above about 30, with Hiding Power being determined using a Form 24B Gray Scale chart coated with a 0.015 mm thick layer of hardened finish and measuring the first gray scale bar that can be clearly differentiated from a white background by an observer located three meters from the coated gray scale chart.

34.(Original) A method according to claim 33 wherein the ratio is above about 35.

35.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the substrate comprises vinyl sheet flooring, linoleum, rubber sheeting, vinyl composite tiles, rubber tiles, cork or a synthetic sports floor.

36.(Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the substrate comprises concrete, stone, marble, wood, ceramic tile, grout, Terrazzo or a dry shake floor.

37.(Original) A method according to claim 21 comprising applying to the substrate a multilayer finish comprising at least one layer of an undercoat and at least one layer of a topcoat having different compositions.

38.(Original) A method according to claim 37 wherein at least one layer of the undercoat comprises the pigment.

39.–54. (Canceled).